



2013 City of Indianapolis VEX Robotics Championship Listing and Descriptions of Awards

VEX AWARDS

Excellence Award

This is the highest award presented in the VEX Robotics Competition. The recipient of this award is a team that exemplifies overall excellence in building a well-rounded VEX robotics program. This team excels in many areas and is a shining example of dedication, devotion, hard work and teamwork. As a strong contender in numerous award categories, this team deserves to be recognized for building a quality robot and a “team” committed to quality in everything that they do.

Teams are given points towards the Excellence Award in the following categories:

- 1) Tournament Qualification Round Ranking
- 2) Programming Skills Challenge Ranking
- 3) Robot Skills Challenge Ranking
- 4) Judged performance in all other award categories

Tournament Champions Award

Presented to the winning alliance of the VEX Robotics Competition tournament.

Tournament Finalists Award

Presented to the runner-up alliance of the VEX Robotics Competition tournament.

Sportsmanship Award

The Sportsmanship Award is presented to a team that has earned the respect and admiration of the volunteers and other teams at the event. This team is a model for all to follow because team members interact with everyone in a positive, respectful manner in the spirit of friendly competition and cooperation. This award is judged during the event by teams, referees and volunteers.

Key Criteria:

- 1) Team is courteous, helpful and respectful to everyone at the event, on and off the field
- 2) Team treats others on the playing field in the spirit of friendly competition
- 3) Team demonstrates respect and willingness to help to event staff and spectators

Judges Award

The Judges' Award goes to a team the judges decide is deserving of special recognition. Judges consider a number of possible criteria for this award, such as team displays of special attributes, exemplary effort and perseverance at the event, and team accomplishments or endeavors throughout the season that may not fall under existing awards- but are nonetheless deserving of special recognition.

Design Award

One of the main missions of the VEX Robotics Competition is to help students acquire real world life skills that will benefit them in their academic and professional future. The Engineering Notebook is a way for teams to document how the VEX Robotics Competition experience has helped them to better

understand the engineering design process while also practicing a variety of critical life skills including project management, time management, brainstorming and teamwork. The Engineering Notebook requirement of the Design Award has no specified format; each notebook should be created through a concerted effort by a team to document their design decisions.

Engineering is an iterative process. Iteration requires a student to recognize and define a problem, brainstorm and work through various stages of the design process, test their designs, continue to improve their designs, and continue the process until a solution has been identified. During this process, students will come across obstacles, encounter instances of success and failure, and learn many lessons. It is this process that students should document in their Engineering Notebook.

Additionally, the Engineering Notebook is an opportunity to document everything a team does so that it can serve as a historical guide of lessons learned and best practices. Students may include a plethora of things in their Engineering Notebook including: team meeting notes, design concepts and sketches, pictures, notes from competitions, biographies of team members (students, teachers and mentors), team members' observations and thoughts, team organization practices, and any other documentation that a team finds useful.

Judging of Engineering Notebooks

Creating and maintaining an Engineering Notebook is in no way "required or mandated" for teams participating in the VEX Robotics Competition. Although the Engineering Notebook is not required, maintaining an Engineering Notebook is highly recommended because the process can have many benefits for the team. For instance, the development of technical writing skills is a valuable tool to acquire. There is only one award given at the VEX World Championship (and some local events) which requires that teams to present their Engineering Notebook to the judges - the Design Award. However, all teams are encouraged to create an Engineering Notebook and bring it to events to show and discuss with Judges. If an event has scheduled judging sessions teams should bring their engineering notebook to the session. Judges are always interested in learning and seeing the various skills students acquire and demonstrate through their participation in the VEX Robotics Competition. Teams are welcome to bring support materials, flyers, team promotional materials and items such as an Engineering Notebook to events to share with judges. It is encouraged that all members of a team contribute to this project throughout the season.

Key Criteria:

- 1) Engineering Notebook is a clear, complete document of the team's design and build process
- 2) Team is able to explain their design and strategy throughout the season
- 3) Team demonstrates personnel, time and resource management throughout the season
- 4) Teamwork and interview quality

Volunteer Award

VRC events don't just materialize; it takes the collective effort of many people who are willing to give of their time and efforts for the sake of the participants. At the root of each event, you can usually find an individual spearheading the effort to "make things happen."

The Volunteer of the Year will be easy to spot because of his/her enthusiasm, dedication and results oriented approach to bringing the experience and opportunities available through VEX Robotics to as many students as possible. The recipient of this award demonstrates a commitment and devotion to

their community, putting in many hours of hard work with persistence and passion to help make the event happen.

Think Award

The Think Award is presented to a team that has successfully utilized autonomous programming modes during competition. The winning team will have quality, consistent and successful autonomous programs as part of their strategy and team members will be able to explain their programming process from strategy to syntax. This award may be judged by the referees, programming inspectors and/or members of the judge panel.

Key Criteria:

- 1) Team's autonomous code is effective to task, cleanly written, well-defined, and elegantly designed
- 2) Team has explained a clear autonomous strategy that is a part of their overall strategy to win the game
- 3) Team's autonomous code is consistent and reliable
- 4) Teamwork and interview quality

Create Award

The Create Award is earned by a team whose robot design incorporates a creative engineering solution to the design challenges of this year's game. Judges will be looking for teams that are able to demonstrate a highly creative engineering process that incorporates solid mechanical ability, unique design solutions, and innovative approaches to the game play.

Key Criteria:

- 1) Robot is a well-crafted, unique design solution, demonstrating creative thinking
- 2) Team has demonstrated a highly creative engineering design process and methodology
- 3) Team has committed to ambitious and creative approaches to playing the game
- 4) Teamwork and interview quality

Build Award

The Build Award is given to a team that has built a well crafted and constructed robot that also shows a clear dedication to safety and attention to detail. Judges will be looking for robots that have a professional feel and quality look to them, with clear attention to detail in construction, efficient use of mechanical and electronic components, and reliability on the competition field.

Key Criteria:

- 1) Robot construction is of professional quality; robust, clean and elegant use of build materials
- 2) Robot efficiently uses mechanical and electrical components
- 3) Robot is designed with detailed attention to the hazards and rigors of the competition
- 4) Teamwork and interview quality

Amaze Award

The Amaze Award is presented to a team that has built a competition robot that clearly demonstrates overall quality. A solid mechanical design along with demonstrated robot programming, robustness, strong performance and consistency are key attributes assessed for this award.

Key Criteria:

- 1) Robot design is consistently high-scoring and competitive

- 2) Robot autonomous mode is consistently successful
- 3) Robot is robustly constructed to fulfill its designed task
- 4) Teamwork and interview quality

Innovate Award

The Innovate Award is presented to a team that has demonstrated a strong combination of ingenuity and innovation in designing their VEX robot. This award will typically recognize a specific, unique piece of engineering that exemplifies thinking outside of the box and innovative engineering design. This robot feature should also be a part of the engineering design solution that solves the complex problems presented by the VRC game.

Key Criteria:

- 1) Robot design demonstrates an ingenious and innovative piece of engineering
- 2) Innovative feature is soundly crafted and is an effective solution to a design problem
- 3) Innovative solution is integrated as a part of an overall well crafted robot
- 4) Teamwork and interview quality

Energy Award

The Energy Award is based on team enthusiasm displayed at the event. The winning team will demonstrate boundless passion and energy throughout the competition – in the pit area, on the field, and in the audience, even when their robot is not playing.

Key Criteria:

- 1) Team maintains a high level of energy throughout the event
- 2) Team demonstrates support for all participants
- 3) Team's positive energy enriches the event experience for others

VEX IQ AWARDS

Excellence Award

The Excellence Award is given to the overall top team. It is the highest honor given out in the VEX Robotics Competition.

Teamwork Champion Awards

Presented to the final match participants of the VEX Robotics Competition tournament.

Teamwork Finalist Awards

Presented to the runner up match participants of the VEX Robotics Competition tournament.

Programming Skills Champion Award

Presented to the winning autonomous Skills Challenge participant of the VEX Robotics Competition tournament.

Robot Skills Champion Award

Presented to the winning Robot Skills Challenge participant of the VEX Robotics Competition tournament.

Design Award

The Design award is presented to a team that demonstrates an organized and professional approach to the design process, project management, time management and team organization.

Sportsmanship Award

The Sportsmanship award is presented to a team that has earned the respect and admiration of the volunteers and other teams at the event. This team is a model for all to follow and interacts with everyone in a positive, respectful manner in the spirit of friendly competition and cooperation.

Volunteer of the Year Award

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